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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

Previously in New Avengers

The shape-shifting alien race known as the Skrulls has invaded Earth. First they deployed a well-planned Secret Invasion using their shape-shifting ability to seed mistrust among the Avengers and other heroes around the world.

Now they have struck fast and hard, setting up camp and making their intentions clear. The Earth is now part of the Skrull Empire.

Even though they've escaped the traps set for them, Earth's heroes, including the Avengers, have been defeated both mentally and physically. They didn't even know the extent of the invasion or which of them was – or could still be -- a Skrull agent.

Among the casualties of the growing paranoia is the marriage of Avenger Luke Cage and Jessica Jones. Worried for the safety of their child, Jessica seeks shelter at Avengers Tower, under the watchful eye of Stark's butler, Jarvis, to wait out the worst of it.

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

BILLY TAN & MICHAEL GAYDOS
PENCILS

MATT BANNING & MICHAEL GAYDOS
INKS

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

RS & COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE
LETTERER

ALEKSI BRICLOT
COVER ARTIST

ANTHONY DIAL
PRODUCTION

JEANINE SCHAEFER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

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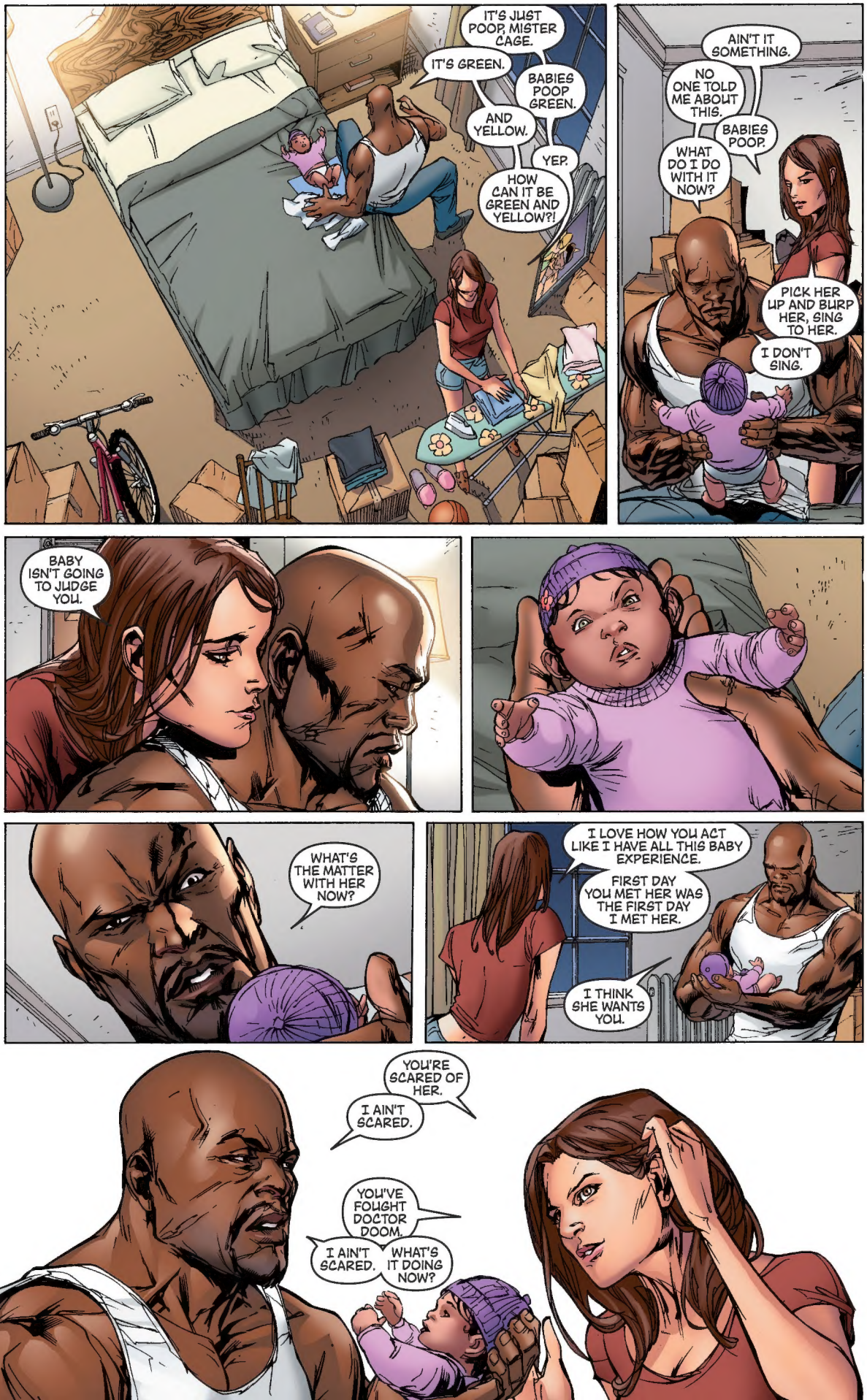
WEEKS AGO...
SWEET CHRISTMAS...


IT'S JUST POOP, MISTER CAGE.
IT'S GREEN.
BABIES POOP GREEN.
AND YELLOW.
YEP.
HOW CAN IT BE GREEN AND YELLOW?!
AIN'T IT SOMETHING.
NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS.
BABIES POOP.
WHAT DO I DO WITH IT NOW?
PICK HER UP AND BURP HER, SING TO HER.
I DON'T SING.
BABY ISN'T GOING TO JUDGE YOU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER NOW?
I LOVE HOW YOU ACT LIKE I HAVE ALL THIS BABY EXPERIENCE.
FIRST DAY YOU MET HER WAS THE FIRST DAY I MET HER.
I THINK SHE WANTS YOU.
YOU'RE SCARED OF HER.
I AIN'T SCARED.
YOU'VE FOUGHT DOCTOR DOOM.
I AIN'T SCARED.
WHAT'S IT DOING NOW?

"IT" HAS FEMALE PRIVATE PARTS SO WE'RE GOING TO CALL IT A SHE FROM NOW ON.

OKAY.

YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE HER ANY MORE OF A COMPLEX THAN THE ONE SHE'S GOING TO GET WHEN SHE SEES PICTURES OF US IN OUR OLD HERO COSTUMES.

TALK TO HER. BOUNCE HER.

TELL HER A STORY. SHE NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.

SHE NEEDS TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SHE NEEDS TO FEEL SAFE.

YEAH, OKAY.

OKAY, BABY.

UH...

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME ME AND YOUR MOMMY FIRST MET.

ALREADY TOLD HER.

OKAY. HOW ABOUT THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT A--

ALREADY TOLD HER.

HOW ABOUT THE TIME WE--

THAT YOU NEVER TELL HER.

OKAY. HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU ABOUT THE DAY I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR MOTHER.

YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH ME THAT FIRST DAY WE MET.

NO, *YOU* FELL IN LOVE WITH *ME* THE FIRST DAY WE MET.

I RESERVED JUDGEMENT.

OH, *REALLY...*

OKAY, SO, WHEN COPS, FIREMEN, AMBULANCES ARE TRYING TO GET WHERE THEY NEED TO GO...

OTHER CARS ARE SUPPOSED TO PULL OVER AND LET THEM GET BY...

BUT SOMETIMES THEY DON'T--

SOMETIMES PEOPLE ACTUALLY THINK THE @#$% PLACE THEY ARE GOING IS ACTUALLY *MORE* IMPORTANT THAN FIREMEN GOING TO A FIRE.

WHERE YOU ARE GOING IS NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHERE THEY WERE GOING!

WEEEOOOWEEEOOOWEEEOOOWEE

WEEEOOO WEEEOOO WEEEOOO

CARUMPH

I-I WILL SUE THE--!

GET YOUR ASS BACK IN THE CAR!

ABOUT TIME!

YOU ARE THE MAN!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP

JESSICA JONES.

YOU REMEMBER MY NAME.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD?

TOLD YOU I WASN'T EVER GOING TO FORGET IT.

GUESS IT HAS.

I WAS COMING TO SEE *YOU*, ACTUALLY.

WHAT?

I NEED TO HIRE YOU.

ALIAS
VESTIGATI
SERVICES

WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE BIG HEROES FOR HIRE?

NOT THEM. JUST ME.

I NEED YOU TO FIND MY DAD.

HE'S NOT *"MISSING."*

"WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HIM?"

HE'S NOT MISSING. HE'S HIDING.

FROM ME.

OKAY, JUST YOU.

IS HE--HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN MISSING?

THEN--

FROM *YOU?*

I'LL JUST--I'M JUST GOING TO SAY THIS HOW IT IS.

PLEASE.

MY FAMILY. MY BROTHER AND MY DAD. THEY DON'T LIKE ME. THEY MIGHT *HATE* ME.

WHAT DID YOU *DO?*

ACCORDING TO THEM, I MURDERED A MAN IN COLD BLOOD, AND WENT TO JAIL FOR SELLING HEROIN TO KIDS.

OH.

I WAS FALSELY ACCUSED FOR THE HEROIN. BUT I *DID* GO TO JAIL FOR IT.

I WAS EXONERATED. I DIDN'T DO IT. BUT I DID GO TO JAIL.

WHO DID YOU NOT KILL?

THEY THOUGHT I KILLED MY BOY DANNY RAND. I DID NOT.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS BEING ALIVE.

EXACTLY. BUT MY DAD, HE'S, YOU KNOW, AN OLDER GUY READS SOMETHING IN THE PAPER...

BUT YOU'RE A *SUPER HERO* NOW. A DEFENDER. YOU'RE--YOU'RE *POWER MAN.*

SORRY.

...HE DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO KNOW IT AIN'T TRUE.

IT'S THERE. BLACK AND WHITE.

AND I WENT TO JAIL FOR THE DRUG THING. THAT'S ALL HE KNOWS OF ME.

THAT--THAT AIN'T HAVING A POSITIVE EFFECT ON HIM.

IN FACT, I THINK IT DID THE OPPOSITE. I THINK IT EMBARRASSES THE #$%^ OUT OF HIM.

AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, I THINK HE THINKS *THAT'S* THE LIE.

I THINK HE THINKS MY NEW LIFE IS THE LIE TO COVER UP THIS BAD GUY HE THINKS I REALLY AM.

SO, SO MY BROTHER...

HE KEEPS TAKING MY DAD AND MOVING HIM AROUND AND THEY'RE HIDING FROM ME.

EVERY TIME I CATCH UP TO THEM SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

WELL, MAYBE, AND I KNOW THIS IS HARD TO HEAR, BUT MAYBE JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.

NO. YOU SEE--

THEY'RE--WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS--THEY'RE KIND OF GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO TELL YOU TO LEAVE THEM ALONE.

RESPECT IT. MAYBE THEY'LL COME AROUND.

I JUST WANT TO LOOK MY DAD IN THE EYE AND TELL HIM WHO I REALLY AM. I WANT HIM TO *HEAR* ME. I JUST WANT HIM TO HEAR ME.

HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO.

I JUST WANT TO SAY THE WORDS. I WANT TO KNOW THAT I DID.

OKAY, OKAY...LISTEN, I'M FLATTERED YOU THOUGHT OF ME.

OH.

WELL, TO BE HONEST, I SORTA HIRED DAKOTA NORTH FIRST.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

SHE'S KIND OF A WACKY CHICK.

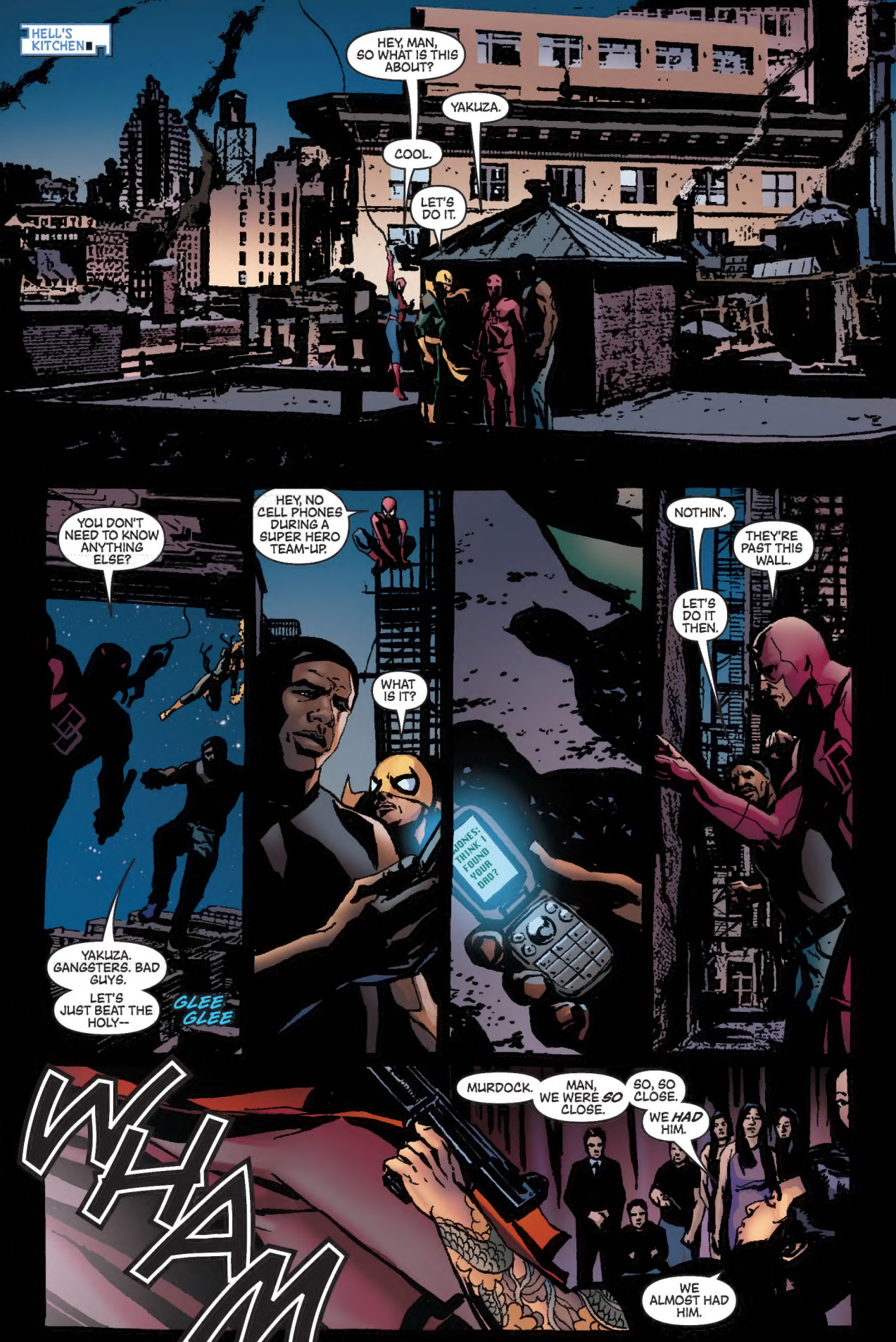
EVEN FOR US IN OUR CIRCLES. SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER.

THANK YOU. EVERYONE'S ALL IN LOVE WITH HER AND I'M LIKE, *HELLO?*

AND I COULDN'T FIND JESSICA DREW, SO...

I THOUGHT, HEY...

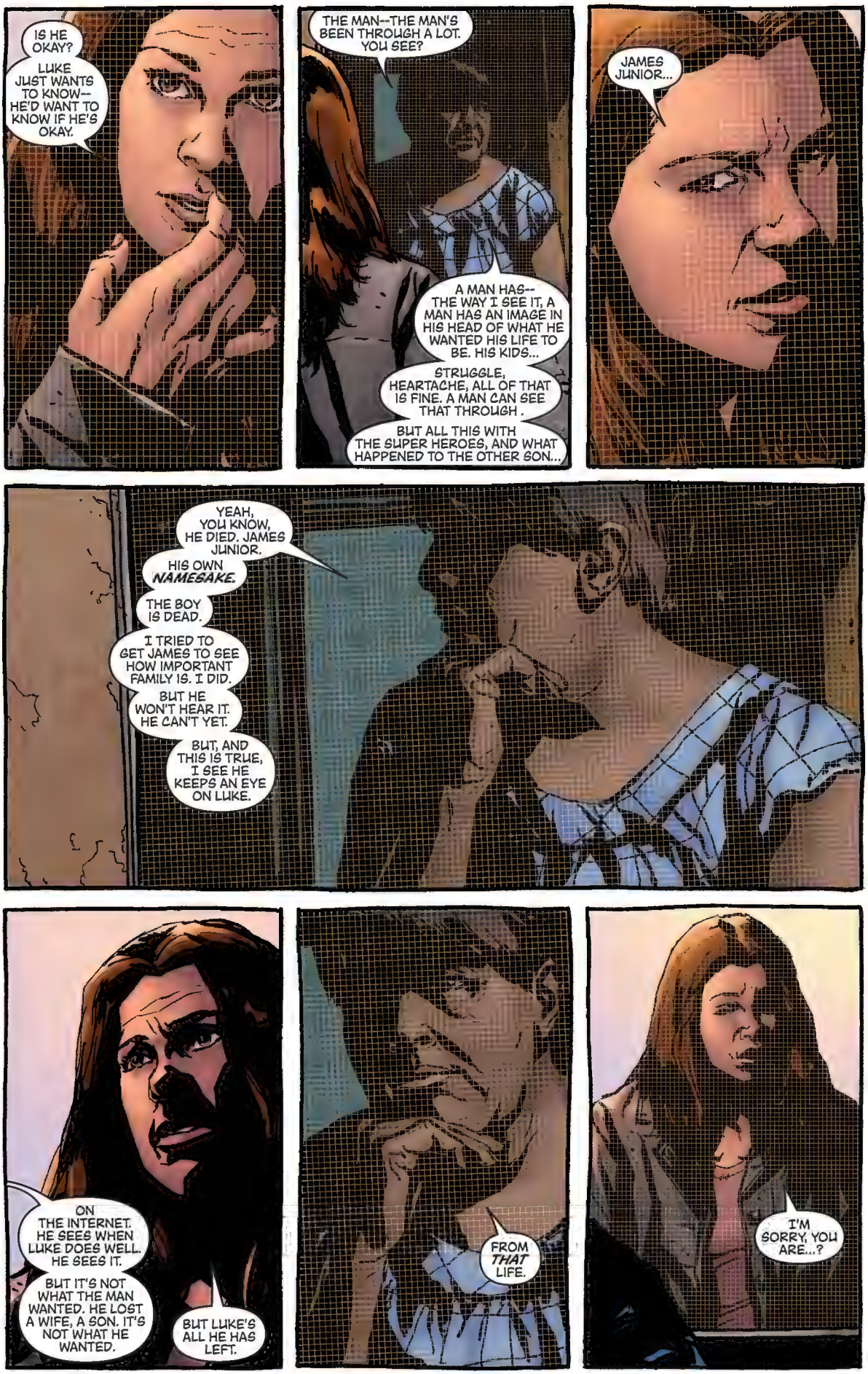
WELL, I'M GLAD I WAS ON THE LIST SOMEWHERE.

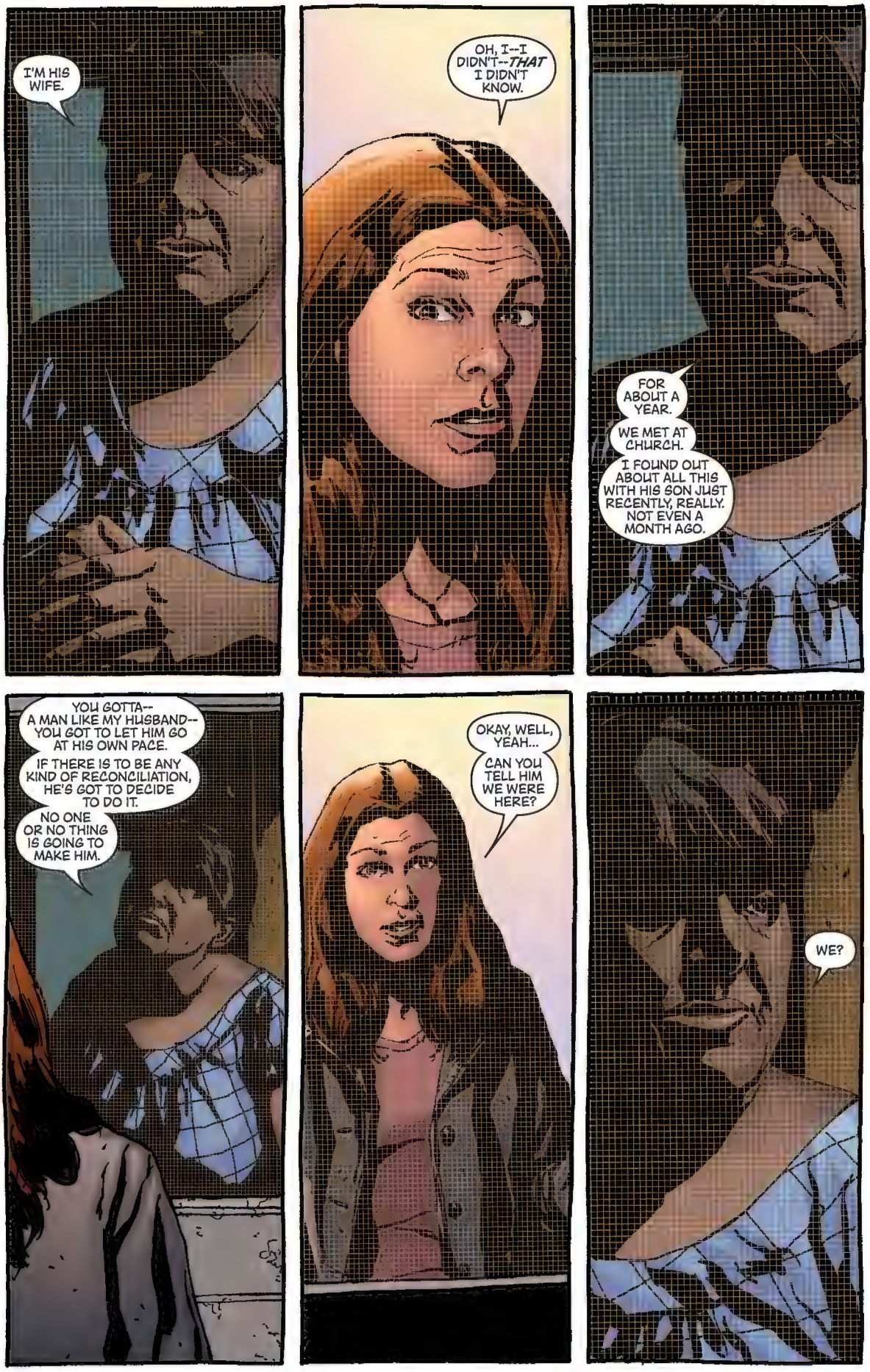

HELL'S KITCHEN
HEY, MAN, SO WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
YAKUZA.
COOL.
LET'S DO IT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING ELSE?
YAKUZA. GANGSTERS. BAD GUYS.
LET'S JUST BEAT THE HOLY--
GLEE GLEE
HEY, NO CELL PHONES DURING A SUPER HERO TEAM-UP.
WHAT IS IT?
JONES: THINK I FOUND YOUR DAD?
NOTHIN'.
THEY'RE PAST THIS WALL.
LET'S DO IT THEN.
WHAM
MURDOCK.
MAN, WE WERE SO CLOSE.
SO, SO CLOSE.
WE HAD HIM.
WE ALMOST HAD HIM.

ALMOST DOESN'T COUNT.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
CAN I HELP YOU?
IS JAMES LUCAS HERE?
WHO ARE YOU?!
MY NAME IS JESSICA JONES. DOES JAMES LUCAS LIVE HERE?
I...
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.
HE GOES BY THE NAME JAMES GEARY NOW.
BUT IT WAS JAMES LUCAS.
PLEASE...

WHO *ARE* YOU?!
MY NAME IS JESSICA JONES. I'M A PRIVATE DE--
YOU *GOT* TO BE KIDDING ME.
DETECTIVE. I'M NOT HERE TO--
YOU *LISTEN* TO ME. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT *ANYTHING.*
YOU HEAR ME?! I'LL CALL THE COPS. I'LL CALL THE--
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF HIS SON, LUKE...
LUKE CAGE...
HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS FATHER.
I'M NOT HERE TO DO ANYTHING-- I'M HERE TO TRY AND HELP.
SON JUST WANTS TO TALK TO HIS FATHER.
WELL, THE FATHER DON'T WANT TO TALK TO THE SON.


IS HE OKAY?
LUKE JUST WANTS TO KNOW--HE'D WANT TO KNOW IF HE'S OKAY.
THE MAN--THE MAN'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT. YOU SEE?
A MAN HAS--THE WAY I SEE IT, A MAN HAS AN IMAGE IN HIS HEAD OF WHAT HE WANTED HIS LIFE TO BE. HIS KIDS...
STRUGGLE, HEARTACHE, ALL OF THAT IS FINE. A MAN CAN SEE THAT THROUGH .
BUT ALL THIS WITH THE SUPER HEROES, AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER SON...
JAMES JUNIOR...
YEAH, YOU KNOW, HE DIED. JAMES JUNIOR.
HIS OWN NAMESAKE.
THE BOY IS DEAD.
I TRIED TO GET JAMES TO SEE HOW IMPORTANT FAMILY IS. I DID.
BUT HE WON'T HEAR IT. HE CAN'T YET.
BUT, AND THIS IS TRUE, I SEE HE KEEPS AN EYE ON LUKE.
ON THE INTERNET. HE SEES WHEN LUKE DOES WELL. HE SEES IT.
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT THE MAN WANTED. HE LOST A WIFE, A SON. IT'S NOT WHAT HE WANTED.
BUT LUKE'S ALL HE HAS LEFT.
FROM THAT LIFE.
I'M SORRY, YOU ARE...?

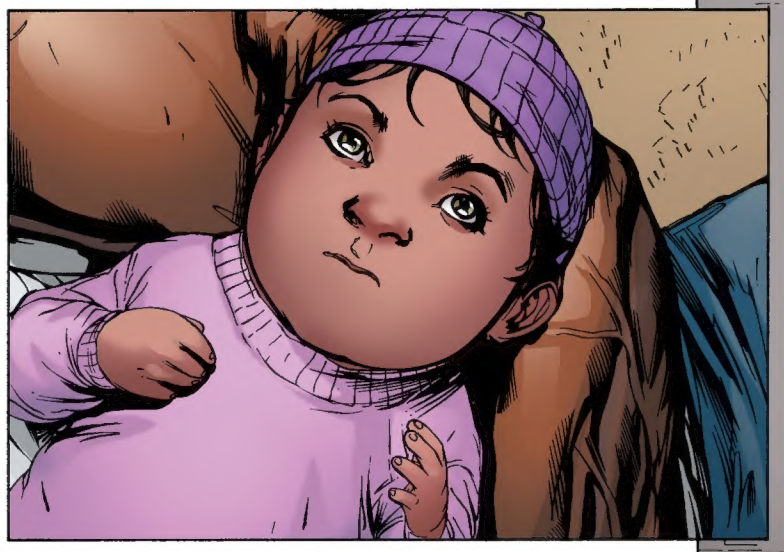

I'M HIS WIFE.
OH, I--I DIDN'T--*THAT* I DIDN'T KNOW.
FOR ABOUT A YEAR.
WE MET AT CHURCH.
I FOUND OUT ABOUT ALL THIS WITH HIS SON JUST RECENTLY, REALLY. NOT EVEN A MONTH AGO.
YOU GOTTA-- A MAN LIKE MY HUSBAND-- YOU GOT TO LET HIM GO AT HIS OWN PACE.
IF THERE IS TO BE ANY KIND OF RECONCILIATION, HE'S GOT TO DECIDE TO DO IT.
NO ONE OR NO THING IS GOING TO MAKE HIM.
OKAY, WELL, YEAH...
CAN YOU TELL HIM WE WERE HERE?
WE?

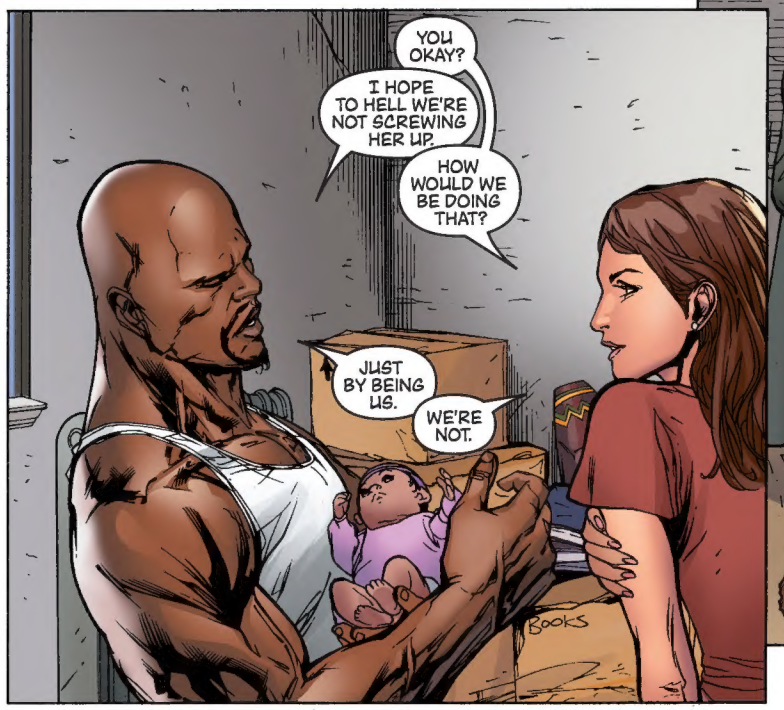
PA...?

MAYBE ONE DAY...

DAIRY QUEEN
TOLD YA MAYBE NOT TO COME.
YEAH.

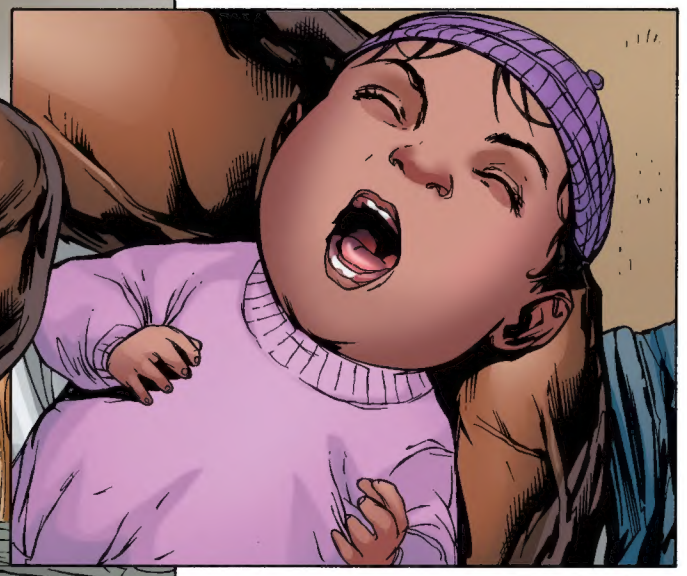
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE MAN? YOU USED TO WEAR A METAL TIARA.
IN PUBLIC.
DAKOTA NORTH, SERIOUSLY?
NEVER AGAIN.




YOU OKAY?
I HOPE TO HELL WE'RE NOT SCREWING HER UP.
HOW WOULD WE BE DOING THAT?
JUST BY BEING US.
WE'RE NOT.
Rooks

COULD BE.
YOU'RE HER DAD. SHE'LL BE FINE. MORE THAN FINE.
AIN'T THAT SIMPLE, IS IT?
WILL BE FOR YOU.
IT WILL BE.
EASY.

SCARY ASS @#$% THOUGH, HUH? TAKING CARE OF THIS.
ALL I THINK ABOUT IS--ALL THE THINGS YOU'LL DO RIGHT.
YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING RIGHT... BOTH OF US--WE DO EVERYTHING RIGHT, BUT WE DO *ONE* THING WRONG...
YEAH...
JUST ONE THING...
MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP ALL THIS #$%% WE DO.
MAYBE.



ON THE OTHER HAND...
MAN...
WE CAN SHOW HER THE WORLD.

CENTRAL PARK, TODAY
OH GOD!
NO!
JESSICA!
THE HELL?
WHERE IS SHE GOING?!
THE HELL HAPPENED?
GO! GO!
WHAT THE HELL, JESS?!
THE BABY, LUKE.
THEY TOOK OUR BABY!
WHAT?
JARVIS. THE JARVIS THAT WAS HERE.
IT WAS ONE OF THEM!! ONE OF THE SKRULLS! AND--AND I GAVE HIM THE BABY!
AND NOW--AND NOW...

NEXT ISSUE: DARK REIGN